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ASIA-DEA

Land-Allotments.

118-119-15

P B 4

El Tejon Ranch
Indians.

Mr. Harry Chandler,

Los Angeles Times,

Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This is with reference to certain correspondence had by you with Special Agent C.H. Asbury some time during the latter part of 1914, relative to the situation of about 50 California Indians who have been located for a number of years on the El Tejon Ranch, which the Office understands is now owned by a syndicate of which you are the manager.

In a letter dated September 5, 1914, addressed to Mr. Asbury you stated -

While I am not able to give you any authoritative or legally binding statement until after positive action of our board shall have been previously obtained, I can assure you that there is not the remotest probability of the present owners of the ranch desiring to make any change which will effect adversely the interest of the Tejon Indians.

The Office is now in receipt of various communications from citizens of Bakersfield, California, who are apparently quite well informed concerning the condition of these Indians, and who report a rumor that the present owners of the land are not favorably disposed to its occupation by

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the Indians. One of the correspondents states that "the owners of the ranch claim that all they desire from the Indians is the signing of a lease at a nominal rental x x x". If this is the case, and the Office is correct in its understanding that you are the person with whom this matter should be taken up, will you kindly give us information as to the nature and terms of the lease into which your company would be willing to enter, in order that the Office may take prompt action thereon in the interest of these Indians. If, however, you are no longer connected with the company, will you not be so kind as to see that this letter is forwarded to the proper officials of the company owning and controlling the property in question.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

11-REF-19

Assistant Commissioner.

Carbon to Tule River School
Carbon to Walker River
Carbon to Spcl. Agt. Yarell.